

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary mere days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Like all other broadcast stations, Sinclair does not pay any fees to use the public airwaves, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large conglomerates control the airwaves, viewers see more product designed to enhance that corporation's profit margin and far less of what viewers need to serve our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" out of the immediate service area, it's vital that we see actual residents and business folk from our own communities as well as more essential news intrinsic to issues that matter to our own communities.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen AND ENFORCE media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. I am appalled at the sorry state of the way the FCC has allowed the unchecked consolidation of the broadcast media, regardless of conflict of interest, and the lack of oversight by the FCC, without regard to the viewers these broadcasters were sworn to serve. Enforcement is capricious at best and collusive at worst.

I would appreciate an acknowledgement of my comments to you. Thank you.

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